

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 HA-05 /068 W  
-----032240 030042Z /75

R 021219Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6471  
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6683

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, ET  
SUBJECT: NOCTURNAL SHOOTING AROUSES POPULAR APPREHENSION

SUMMARY: NOISY MACHINE GUN FIRE THROUGHOUT CITY DURING  
CURFEW HOURS OF EARLY MORNING DECEMBER 1 IS MOST GRAPHIC  
EVIDENCE TO DATE THAT EPMG IS VIGOROUSLY IMPLEMENTING ITS  
ANNOUNCED CAMPAIGN OF "RED" TERROR TO WIPE OUT "WHITE"  
COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ELEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF ADDIS ABABA REVERBERATED WITH  
BURST AFTER BURST OF MACHINE GUN AND LIGHT WEAPONS FIRE  
FOR SEVERAL EARLY MORNING HOURS DECEMBER 1, WAKING NUMER-  
OUS EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS AND CAUSING GREAT APPREHENSION  
AMONG ETHIOPIAN RESIDENTS OF CITY. THERE WERE ALSO OCCA-  
SIONAL EXPLOSIONS, WHICH SOUNDED LIKE GRENADES GOING OFF.  
THERE ARE ONLY CONFLICTING REPORTS OF WHAT ACTUALLY WAS  
GOING ON. JUDGING FROM PATTERN OF GUNFIRE AND PROGRES-  
SIVELY INCREASING AND DECREASING LOUDNESS THEREOF, HOWEVER,  
EMBASSY'S BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT EXTENSIVE, CONCERTED GOVERN-  
MENT SWEEP OPERATION WAS CARRIED OUT, WITH VIEW TO SEEKING  
OUT AND EITHER ARRESTING OR ELIMINATING "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY  
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ELEMENTS." THIS WAS INDIRECTLY CONFIRMED BY PRESS ARTICLE  
DEC 2, INDICATING INTENSIFICATION OF ANTI-TERRORIST CAMPAIGN BY  
"PROGRESSIVE BROAD MASSES, PATRIOTS, AND MEN-IN-UNIFORM,"  
PARTICULARLY AGAINST EPRP AND ELF SYMPATHIZERS, WHO WERE  
ALLEGEDLY WORKING TOGETHER. ONE EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE  
REPORTED THAT ETHIOPIAN TROOPS STILL SURROUNDED HER AREA OF  
RESIDENCE WHEN SHE CAME TO WORK MORNING DEC 1, THAT THERE

HAD BEEN TANKS IN THE STREET DURING NIGHT, AND THAT SEARCH OPERATIONS IN THAT AREA WERE STILL UNDERWAY AS LATE AS NOON.

2. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER MACHINE GUN BURSTS WERE IN MAJORITY OF CASES ACTUALLY AIMED AT SOMEONE OR DESIGNED TO FLUSH ANTI-GOVERNMENT SUSPECTS OUT OF SLEEPING (OR HIDING) HOUSEHOLDS. IN ONE CASE, PRESS CONFIRMS THAT GROUP, DESCRIBED AS EPRP RINGLEADERS, HAD TAKEN UP FORTIFIED POSITION IN LOCAL HOTEL. EPMG TROOPS STORMED HOTEL WITH GRENADES AND MACHINE GUNS, KILLING THREE, WOUNDING ONE, AND CAPTURING OTHERS. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT NUMEROUS ARRESTS WERE MADE ELSEWHERE AS WELL. THIS WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH OTHER INDICATIONS EMBASSY HAS HAD IN PAST FEW DAYS THAT EPMG HAS SUCCEEDED IN SPLITTING RANKS OF VARIOUS OPPOSITION GROUPS. REPORTEDLY, SOME TURNCOATS ARE NOW HELPING EPMG TO IDENTIFY AND LOCATE EPRP SYMPATHIZERS AND OTHERS, EVEN TO EXTENT OF ACCOMPANYING GUNJEeps ON THEIR SWEEPS AND POINTING OUT HOMES OF THEIR FORMER COLLEAGUES. PRESS LIKEWISE CONFIRMS THAT REVOLUTIONARY OPERATIONS COORDINATING COMMITTEE (ROCC) HAD "SECURED CLUES, CONCERNING ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES" AND INTENTIONS TO UNLEASH WHITE TERROR.

3. PRESS CLAIMED THAT EPRP AND ELF HAD RECENTLY COMMITTED ACTS OF SABOTAGE AT ADDIS ABABA MUNICIPALITY BUILDING, WABE SHEBELLE HOTEL AND AT SEVERAL MEANS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION. IT REFERRED TO PRACTICE OF COMMANDEERING CARS FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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HIT-AND-RUN ACTIONS. FINALLY, ROCC WARNS AGAINST EPRP PLANS TO PLANT EXPLOSIVES IN CHURCHES AND MOSQUES, FACTORIES, OFFICES AND SHOPS FOR TERRORISTIC PURPOSES. COMMITTEE ASKS FOR COOPERATION OF POPULATION IN RIDDING CITY OF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES.

4. WHATEVER THE CAUSE, OUTBURST DURING NIGHT NOV 30/DEC 1 WAS NOISIEST, MOST LONGLASTING NOCTURNAL SESSION OF SHOOTING SINCE BLOODY DAYS OF LAST MARCH AND APRIL, AND NATURE OF TERROR APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN "RED," NOT "WHITE." DESPITE INCREASED LEVEL OF GUN-FIRE, DAWN BROUGHT WITH IT FAMILIAR FACADE OF BUSINESS-ALMOST-AS-USUAL ON ADDIS STREETS. SECURITY OF AMERICAN AND NON-ETHIOPIAN RESIDENTS HAS NOT DECLINED APPRECIABLY, AS DEC 1 SHOOTING OCCURRED WITHIN CURFEW HOURS. MATHERON

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## Message Attributes

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